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The International Year of the Child - 1979

Progress report by the Executive Director

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Summary

1. In consultation with the Secretary-General, the Executive Director appointed Dr. Estefania Aldaba-Lim special representative for the Year as of 1 October 1977. Dr. Lim carries the rank of Assistant Secretary-General. She has at the time of writing already visited some 15 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe and has been warmly received in all of them.

2. The response to the General Assembly Resolution 31/169 proclaiming 1979 the International Year of the Child has been most encouraging. Of the 152 governments addressed by the Executive Director in early 1977, 111 are known to have started preparations for the Year. Of these 50 have already established national commissions for IYC.

3. The organizations of the United Nations system are continuing to develop many programmes for the Year. Encouraging reports are coming in from UNICEF field offices about IYC preparatory activities of developing countries with the assistance of the funds approved by the Board in 1977, to assess the situation of their children and prepare plans for improving and extending services benefiting them.

4. The non-governmental organizations community has continued to give full support to the Year. Those accredited to the Economic and Social Council, UNESCO and UNICEF have formed themselves into a single global NGO/IYC Committee with offices in Geneva and New York.

5. The IYC Secretariat, which came into being officially on 1 July 1977, has offices in New York and Geneva. In each office a Director is assisted by staff carrying out external relations, information and technical responsibilities. Mindful of the Executive Board injunction to reduce cost, among other things by delaying recruitment, the appointment of staff has been delayed as much as possible. While staff has been seconded by Governments against the Secretariat's manning table, much appreciated assistance has been made available for information work in UNICEF field offices through 8 junior professional officers sponsored by several Governments. The Secretariat has been much helped by the temporary secondment of a principal information officer from the United Nations Office of Public Information (OPI) and a newsletter editor from the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA).

6. So far 22 Governments have contributed a total of \$2.7 million to the cost of the IYC Secretariat. The Executive Director is most hopeful that by the end of 1978 at least the originally estimated target will have been reached.

7. The original figure of \$4.2 million for the cost of the IYC Secretariat for the three year period, mid 1977 to mid 1980, was the best estimate possible at the time. However, on the basis of nine months of actual operation, it is evident that the costs will exceed this figure. This is due in part to a substantially greater workload than originally anticipated, and in part to inflation and changes in exchange rates. The revised cost figure for the three year period to enable the Secretariat to fulfill its task effectively can now be estimated at \$5.187 million.

The Special Representative

8. In execution of the responsibilities placed on him by the General Assembly Resolution 31/169 as responsible for the co-ordination of IYC, the Executive Director, in consultation with the Secretary-General, appointed Dr. Estefania Aldaba-Lim Special Representative for IYC with effect from 1 October 1977. Dr. Lim carries the rank of Assistant Secretary-General.

9. The Special Representative assists the Executive Director in developing and formulating policy for the Year, guides and supervises the IYC Secretariat in the implementation of that policy, and helps to co-ordinate the activities of the United Nations system.

10. One of the principal tasks of the Special Representative is to advocate the objectives of the Year at the highest governmental levels and to encourage and support action within countries. To this end she travels extensively, being away from her New York headquarters more than half her time. Dividing her attention between countries where a special impetus is needed, and those where a visit may help in the reinforcing of an impetus that is already there, the Special Representative has so far visited some 15 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe. According to present plans, she will have visited all major regions and continents of the world by the end of 1978 - a total of some 40 countries. By the end of 1979 the number should have doubled.

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11. Wherever the Special Representative has gone she was received with the greatest courtesy and goodwill, including in most of the countries by the Heads of State and Governments, and their First Ladies. She also met with many of the most purposeful national organizations in support of the objectives of IYC in each country. There was an impressive show of interest by the media. Her visits served not only further to arouse the interest of numerous non-governmental organizations, but to bring about a closer contact between them and the government agencies.

Participation in the Year

12. General Assembly Resolution 31/169 is addressed to all countries, both industrialised and developing, and appeals to Governments, the appropriate organs and organizations of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and the public to participate in the Year. The initial response has been most encouraging.

Governments

13. In February 1977 the Executive Director addressed a letter to all Foreign Ministers and Foreign Secretaries inviting their Government's participation in IYC. The matter was reported in some detail to the Board last year (E/ICEF/L.1359, paras. 18-19). The Executive Director sent a further letter, in October 1977, partly reporting on progress made and partly renewing his appeal for participation and support. These letters and the follow-up action developed simultaneously by UNICEF field offices have given rise to a great deal of interest and discussion in a large number of countries and on many levels. The publication of the basic IYC leaflet in 7 languages, the initiatives developed by the UNICEF National Committees and last, but certainly not least, the support generated by the NGO IYC Committee (see paras. 50-55 below) have further stimulated widespread interest in the Year.

14. The Executive Director suggested that Governments might wish to set up a national commission for IYC or similar body to plan, co-ordinate, and execute, or encourage the execution of, activities in support of the objectives of the Year at the national and local levels. For this to be meaningful, it is most desirable that the commission has high patronage from the outset, and that it be well chaired and representative of the very many interests concerning children in the country. Such a commission to be effective would need an executive body or secretariat. This, in turn, requires an adequate

budget to undertake the work of planning, assessing resources, evaluation and establishing new priorities.

15. The very organising of such a commission or similar body has many far-reaching implications. Under the circumstances the response from Governments is impressive. Of the 152 Governments addressed in the Executive Director's letter, 111 are known to have begun preparations for the Year. In 50 of these countries national IYC commissions have already been set up and in some 35 countries a formal announcement of the establishment of national commissions is expected soon. Some 25 appear so far not to have gone beyond an expression of an intention to participate in the Year.

16. It is of the nature of the national approach urged by IYC that there should be a considerable diversity of patterns. While many commissions enjoy the patronage of the head of state or similar notables and are chaired at the ministerial level, the composition and organization from there on varies considerably. In some cases the commission embraces a large number of both government ministries and non-governmental organizations while in other cases it is mainly non-governmental. There are also cases where two separate bodies have been created, one for government and one for non-governmental organizations.

17. It follows that the programmes adopted by commissions also vary considerably, although it is of interest to note that there is not as much difference between industrialized and developing countries as was perhaps originally expected. Also, it is probable that programmes will be adjusted, modified or amplified as the work gets under way.

18. In one industrialized country, where the national commission comprises both government departments and non-governmental organizations, the programme of proposed activities centres on an analysis of the child's social situation in relation to the criteria laid down in the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, on gathering information about shortcomings and plans for reform, on action aimed at mobilising public awareness of children's needs and interests and on measures to promote social integration of children in their environment. These activities will be pursued by eight sub-commissions or working groups under the themes of: the rights of the child, the protection of the child, the child and the family, the child and education, the child in the home environment, the particularly disadvantaged child, the child and the media and the child in the third world. An analysis of the results of these studies and action programmes based on them will be published in 1979.

19. Another industrialized country has created sub-commissions for socio-cultural aspects, for education, the media, health, and the family and society. Yet another has identified the education of parents, the reduction of child accidents, contact between generations, the handicapped and day-care as their areas of concentration.

20. While not all countries have advanced to this stage, these examples illustrate the directions in which thinking in industrialized countries appears thus far to be going.

21. The response from developing countries has been similarly encouraging. One Government in order to ensure as comprehensive as possible a basis for the commission has advertized in the daily press for any organization or individual with ideas to come forward. Another country with a well articulated national commission has chosen the following five areas of study as the basis for later action plans: physical, mental, spiritual and social factors affecting children 0-6 years old; the child in the family; the school-age child; rural and urban youth; and under-privileged children. In that country, substantive action plans for 1979 include the ratification of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, the enactment of a law concerning the rights of the child, the implementation of the marriage law, the enactment of a juvenile penal code and an adoption law. Yet another country defines its specific plans of action as being in the sectors of education, health and nutrition, justice and the courts, labor and social services.

22. Further notes on developments at the national level will be circulated to the Board when it meets.

UNICEF

23. As part of its input into IYC, UNICEF supports efforts by developing countries to make their own internal assessments of the situation of their children as a basis for plans for improving and extending services benefiting children for the years following IYC. To that end the Board, at its 1977 session, approved a commitment of \$3 million from UNICEF's general resources for preparatory activities (E/ICEF/P/L.1702). These may include inventories and reviews of existing policies, legislation and services, setting priorities and operational objectives and the mobilization of popular support. UNICEF assistance is for some of the local costs involved such as

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services of national experts or institutions, national seminars and workshops, and for external costs where indicated (consultants, travel by national officials to other countries for observation of relevant services).

24. As of 15 March 1978, UNICEF field offices had submitted estimates for the allocation of \$1.2 million for these preparatory activities. It is expected that the greater part of the \$3 million will be allocated before the end of 1978.

25. In addition, UNICEF is assisting and facilitating the work of the IYC Secretariat in a number of ways:

(a) The IYC secretariat staff in New York and Geneva meet at regular intervals with designated members of the UNICEF staff in a body known as the IYC working group. Discussion in New York centres on a variety of policy issues including programme, information, administration, budget, fund-raising, external relations and other questions. IYC draft policy statements and publications may be submitted to the working group for comment and review. There is an important need for co-ordination of visits and other approaches to Governments, e.g. the visits of the Executive Director and the Special Representative require substantial advance planning.

(b) The IYC Secretariat makes use of UNICEF services for its accounting, travel, procurement and certain other requirements. There has been, and continues to be a close link between UNICEF information division and the IYC Secretariat's information services. Representatives of both attend the periodic meetings of JUNIC and a JUNIC working group on IYC; at these meetings information officers of organizations in the United Nations system meet with UNICEF and IYC Secretariat information personnel to report on proposed initiatives, plan joint projects, and take steps to avoid duplication in measures taken to reach the widest possible public audience in IYC.

(c) The co-operation between the UNICEF programme division, field offices and the IYC Secretariat is of a rather special character. Although the Special Representative travels globally and other members of the IYC Secretariat occasionally make country visits, the responsibility for implementation of the IYC programme activities in the developing countries lies with the UNICEF field staff. Within each field area, the UNICEF regional director and the

country representatives represent the IYC secretariat in encouraging Governments to participate in the Year, by reviewing their programmes for the well-being of children and adopting practical measures -with achievable goals - to benefit children. No additional UNICEF posts have been established for this purpose. Of great help, however, have been the junior professional officers sponsored by the Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden which have been added to the UNICEF information division field staff in eight countries with special responsibility for a two-way flow of public information on IYC developments (see para. 73 below).

The United Nations system of organizations

26. General Assembly resolution 31/169 makes UNICEF the "lead agency of the United Nations system". In his progress report to the Board in 1977 (E/ICEF/L.1359, paras. 12-15), the Executive Director reported on the creation of an IYC interagency advisory group in which any organization in the United Nations system with a desire to actively participate in the Year is represented. This Group (of which the NGO/IYC Committee, see paragraph 50 below is also a member) which meets as often as appears desirable, has so far met four times. The meetings provide a most useful forum not only for keeping the organizations informed of developments in general but also for providing for an exchange of ideas and a basis for co-ordination and stimulation of activities.

27. The IYC secretariat has been approached by numerous individuals and organizations proposing both commercial and non-commercial schemes to raise funds on the occasion of IYC. In order to achieve close co-ordination of fund-raising efforts within the United Nations system, a consultative committee has been created to advise the IYC secretariat on this subject. The committee met for the first time in Geneva in January 1978. Membership of the group is open to all organizations in the system interested in raising funds for their own projects under the umbrella of the Year. Membership to date includes UNICEF, UNHCR, UNRWA, UNFDAC, and also a representative from the NGO/IYC Committee and the IYC secretariat. As its first task, the committee has drafted guidelines on fund-raising for national commissions and international NGOs, and guidelines on the commercial use of the IYC name or emblem. It will also compile lists of projects for fund-raising proposed by participating agencies.

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28. At the request of the IYC secretariat, a number of the organizations have provided information concerning the programmes, activities, and special events they propose to carry out in observance of the Year. These are summarized below.

Division of Human Rights

29. Subject to authorization being granted by the Commission on Human Rights, the Division plans to prepare a report on the manner and extent to which the principles contained in the Declaration of the Rights of the Child have been implemented around the world. It would also make an inventory of the provisions of other resolutions, covenants and international instruments having a bearing on the protection of the rights of the child. The Division is considering the possibility of holding a seminar on children's human rights in 1979. It also has under consideration the question of converting the Declaration of the Rights of the Child into a convention.

UNFDAC

30. UNFDAC's focus during 1979 will be on children in drug producing areas, children exposed to drug abuse in developed countries, and the increasing number of children affected by the explosion in drug abuse in developing countries. Special IYC activities, some in co-operation with the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs, include: promoting information provided by representatives of the commission to the public at large; emphasizing, with UNESCO, preventive education programmes for parents and children on drug abuse; and giving publicity to the Year in press features, newsletters and circulation of information through the Fund's mailing lists.

UNDRO

31. UNDRO will explore a number of possible activities during IYC, including the development of a simple instructional programme in disaster preparedness for use in schools. The aim would be to teach children about the kinds of preparedness measures which can be practiced in the home and which are relevant to the type of natural phenomena most commonly experienced in the country concerned.

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UNDP

32. UNDP plans to play an important role in promoting the International Year of the Child in developing countries. Resident Representatives have already been requested by the Administrator to help in the co-ordination of projects with relevance to children in the countries which they serve and to work closely with UNICEF field offices in that respect. UNDP expects to launch a special information programme in connexion with the IYC in close collaboration with the United Nations Office of Public Information:

UNHCR

33. UNHCR attaches great importance to IYC inasmuch as children represent as much as 40 per cent of those in refugee groups. It plans to draw attention to this most vulnerable sector of refugees during IYC. UNHCR will use IYC as an opportunity to ensure that the provisions of the existing international protocol are being applied to children. IYC will also afford an opportunity for UNHCR to urge countries to liberalize their regulations regarding the conferral of citizenship on the children of refugees. Another concern will be to give greater attention to the promotion of family reunions.

WFP

34. WFP is supplying food to food shortage areas and tries to ensure that children receive their share of specially nutritious food. Special plans for IYC include the production of a film of "WFP Aid to Children"; giving publicity to IYC in its newsletter; printing the IYC emblem on WFP stationary; and encouraging WFP staff to bear in mind the objectives of IYC when developing new projects for vulnerable groups.

ILO

35. ILO is planning a series of research projects on the conditions of working children, programmes to promote the application and implementation of relevant ILO conventions and extensive publicity and informational activities. Among the research projects, the following possible topics have been suggested: "Working parents and the satisfaction of basic needs of children"; "Study on strengthening the social

infrastructure for women workers"; "Needs of underprivileged children" to be carried out jointly with UNICEF; "Today's children; tomorrow's workers". Among proposed publications are a special issue of the International Labour Review on "Children and Work"; a brochure on working children; a special pamphlet on IYC; and articles to be published in existing ILO publications.

FAO

36. FAO's focus will be on the basic individual, social and institutional needs and rights of children in the context of rural development. Priority support will be given to programmes involving children of small farmer and forestry worker families, communities of small fishermen and migrants into land settlements.

37. Case studies will be undertaken on child nutrition in rural development programme. Already about 50 FAO projects bear directly on the nutritional status of children. Such activities will be continued or expanded. National training courses will be supported on the subject of group feeding programmes for child nutrition. Special papers on child nutrition and related topics will be issued in the "Third World Nutrition Review".

UNESCO

38. UNESCO has announced that its contributions towards IYC will consist mainly "in creating conditions which are conducive to the child's physical and spiritual development" with particular attention being paid to the least fortunate. Special areas of focus will include: the interrelationship between child health, education and welfare and socio-economic development; problems of disadvantaged children such as children of refugees; the human rights of children; promoting support for programmes for children in developing countries; the exchange and promotion of child related research; and activities for children's participation in the Year.

39. One example of the many events planned by UNESCO under the umbrella of IYC is an international exhibition of children's games and toys to be held in Paris in conjunction with the 20th General Conference in October 1978. Another

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will be a special effort by UNESCO to promote the production of children's books in developing countries. The 1978 UNESCO 'round table' of eminent persons will be devoted to IYC.

40. National commissions for UNESCO were asked in a letter from UNESCO headquarters to co-operate closely with national commissions for IYC and with UNESCO itself.

WHO

41. WHO's plans for IYC fall into four major categories. First, it will focus on development and strengthening of health services directly related to mother and child health care. This will be done particularly in the area of primary health care extension. Second, emphasis will be put on the promotion of physical growth and psycho-social development of children. Nutritional aspects will be central to this activity and studies on breast feeding and the feeding of young children and the social implications of low or high birth rates will be covered. Thirdly, more work will be done on the prevention and management of health problems of children during the prenatal period. Fourthly, intersectoral programmes will be emphasized affecting the health and social welfare of women and children.

UPU/UNPA

42. The Director-General of the UPU has asked all Member States to consider issuing a special stamp on the occasion of IYC. The United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) is planning the issuance of four IYC stamps in 1979, two in dollar denominations in New York and two in Swiss franc denominations in Geneva. More than 150 artists from many countries have submitted designs for UNPA's competition for stamp and border designs.

World Bank

43. The World Bank plans to publish an "Atlas on Children" in the autumn of 1978 which will provide statistical information on the economic and social condition of children around the world. A second project might be the preparation of a slide show and/or film, the theme of which would be that adults bear direct responsibility for the world that children will inherit.

Regional Commissions

44. The regional social and economic commissions of the United Nations are planning extensive programmes for IYC. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) will produce a manual on child development, family life and nutrition which will be distributed in 1979. More emphasis on activities relating to mother and child will be put into ECA's social development programme. This will be done through a series of subregional workshops, training programmes, and pilot projects in village technology that are to be carried out with the co-operation of UNICEF and FAO. At the recent regional conference on the implementation of plans of action for the integration of women in development at Nouakchott, Mauritania (27 September - 2 October 1977), a resolution was adopted urging Governments of Member States to participate in the IYC. ECA will be sponsoring a regional conference in April - May 1979 to review the situation of children in Africa. Other activities will stress the importance of keeping accurate statistics of child birth, child mortality and child population in African countries.

45. The Economic Commission for West Asia (ECWA) will provide advisory services to Member States wishing to initiate and evaluate their programmes for the development of children. In collaboration with the office of UNICEF in Abu Dhabi, the project for the study of the needs of children and youth in Bahrain will be completed in 1978. Similar projects are being formulated for other countries in the region.

46. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is modifying some of its activities with the goal of enhancing awareness of children's needs among planners and decision makers. The regional survey on social development for 1979 will emphasize special problems with which the child population is confronted. A special feature on children's needs and development will be prepared in the Asian population programme news and the social work, education and development newsletter. Assistance will be given to Governments to organize conferences, meetings and seminars emphasizing the Declaration of the Rights of the Child and special problems of children.

IYC debate at 1979 General Assembly

47. In line with the Secretary-General's original recommendation, there will be no international conference under United Nations auspices in connexion with IYC. Although the Year in this respect differs from a number of other international Years, the 1977 General Assembly has provided for a special debate during its 1979 session for a review of IYC activities and discussion of children's problems. This will give delegates of the various nations the opportunity to report on significant programme actions and developments taking place in their countries in observance of the IYC.

Other intergovernmental organizations

48. Several intergovernmental organizations are also planning activities for observance of IYC. The Organization of American States (OAS) passed a resolution on behalf of the Year at its annual conference held in Grenada in 1977 and is framing a series of projects in various countries with the focus on the pre-school child. The Council of the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM) will in the spring of 1979 hold a fourth seminar on "Adaptation and Integration of Permanent Immigrants". One of the principal subjects to be discussed at the 1979 seminar will be problems related to the adaptation and integration of migrant children and adolescents and the measures to be taken nationally, bilaterally and internationally to overcome such problems for the second generation. Early in 1978 a meeting of the working group on ICEM seminars will take place in order to frame this programme. A major division of the Council of Europe is also taking steps to include in a forthcoming programme to be held in Athens, Greece, a special session on the well-being of children.

Non-governmental organizations

49. Non-governmental organizations have been in the forefront of planning for the Year. International NGOs are in a position to inform, guide and to some degree co-ordinate the activities of their national affiliates. For organizations specifically addressing themselves to children's needs, IYC will mean the expansion of existing programmes, and perhaps some new activities. Other NGOs, not directly providing services for children will feature the IYC theme at their

meetings and conferences, arrange symposia on children's problems, sponsor or support needed legislation on children's affairs, and adopt projects for support by their members.

50. The international NGOs have formed their own Committee for IYC. This was done at the invitation of the NGO Committee on UNICEF, the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with ECOSOC, and the NGO (UNESCO) Standing Committee, which convened a meeting of representatives of 88 international organizations at United Nations Headquarters the 27-28th of June 1977 to form the Committee of Non-Governmental Organizations for the International Year of the Child (NGO/IYC Committee). The objectives of the Committee are to serve the objectives of IYC by:

(a) Facilitating the exchange of information among all NGOs participating in the Year;

(b) Providing a channel for communication with the IYC secretariat;

(c) Encouraging the development of NGO programmes related to children's needs in both developed and developing countries.

51. At the June meeting, two offices were established to service the NGO/IYC Committee; one in Geneva and one in New York.

52. A co-ordinating committee of eight organizations was elected whose purpose is to examine questions related to the Committee and decide on its most effective functioning.

53. As one of its central functions, the Co-ordinating Committee will consider proposals for working groups on issues of primary concern to non-governmental organizations. Working groups have already been established on the issues of the handicapped child, rights of the child, and education.

54. The NGO/IYC Committee distributed, in February 1978, a Compendium of NGO activities and programmes in support of IYC. This Compendium includes many events and programmes delineated by NGOs as of December 1977. Updated supplements will be issued periodically.

55. The NGO/IYC Committee will report on its activities in a separate paper to the Board (E/ICEF/NGO/181).

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The IYC secretariat

Preparatory activities

56. Although preparatory activities had started much earlier (at headquarters as early as December 1976) the IYC secretariat officially came into being on 1 July 1977, the starting date of the budget estimates approved by the Board at its session in May 1977. The Executive Director had until then authorized preparatory measures as much as possible from within the UNICEF budget.

57. While the mandate of the IYC secretariat by definition extends well beyond that of UNICEF, including as it does children's problems in the industrialized as well as developing countries, the Executive Director has considered it necessary and desirable for UNICEF's own divisions and offices to give support to the IYC Secretariat. The Executive Director, however, wishes to stress that this, has not interfered in any significant way with the execution of UNICEF's own role and task in assisting developing country programmes.

Structure and staffing

58. The basic structure of the IYC secretariat has remained unaltered from the original concept: offices in New York (headquarters) and Geneva (specifically for Europe), each under a Director and centered around three principal functions: external relations, information and technical. Recruitment of the necessary staff was delayed as much as possible in an effort to achieve budget savings as suggested by the Board. Consequently, by 1 March 1978 only eight of its proposed 11 professional staff at headquarters were in position in New York and six out of eight in Geneva.

Organization and workload

59. The IYC secretariat offices in New York and Geneva have received very many visitors, large amounts of letters and cables and countless telephone calls. Some of these communications report on planned activities, some offer ideas and suggestions and many are in search of technical information on some issue related to children. There have been many requests for financial support in the making of films, publishing books, carrying out studies or staging symposia, workshops or conferences related to the objectives of the Year. Many

more sought speeches, forewords, messages, or other expressions of IYC Secretariat endorsement or approval for particular ventures.

60. Among the difficulties the IYC secretariat continually faces is first of all making it clear that it is not operational in the sense that it is neither staffed nor financed to carry out projects of its own or even to become very much involved in projects mounted by others. Many organizations and individuals expect the secretariat to promote events on a global scale or to become the operational champion of certain causes, some of which appear to be removed from the major IYC objective of the Year to encourage the Government and others in each country to undertake practical national action to improve the situation of their children.

61. To try and achieve consistency of approach the IYC secretariat evolved a document entitled "Background and Guidelines for Actions in support of IYC". This document was approved by the Interagency Advisory Group of the United Nations system (see para. 27) and prepared in a form in which it can continually be up-dated and revised. It has been distributed to decision makers and key persons in the United Nations organizations, Governments, non-governmental organizations and UNICEF field offices. Early feedback indicates the document is proving to be of considerable value.

62. The basic policy of the IYC secretariat has been to encourage Governments and others to take the initiative of developing actions and activities furthering the manifold interests aroused by the Year, providing guidance, basic information and, sometimes, support where it could. The secretariat refers technical enquiries either to the United Nations organizations concerned, to a specialized NGO or to a national authority. It has stressed that the focus of IYC should be on the child, and in this connexion the pertinent paragraph in the above-mentioned background document is worth quoting:

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"The special needs of children and the problems arising out of them are related to many world-wide concerns: the New International Economic Order (NIEO), the Third Development Decade (DD III), the quest for new human life styles, peace and disarmament, as well as the concerns addressed by other International Years such as those for women, for population, for food, and for the environment. However, it is important to avoid the idea that action for children cannot be advanced until these other issues have been dealt with. Care should be taken by the IYC secretariat as well as the co-operating agencies both in general advocacy and in information policy not to blur the sharp focus on children that the International Year of the Child calls for. A very great deal can and should be done for the child while work on the other issues continues. Themes for IYC must have the child as their prime focus; the other issues, important as they are, are not the subject of IYC."

63. In order to assist in the setting up of national IYC commissions and the development of their programmes, the IYC secretariat has issued a set of organizational suggestions as part of a 'starter kit' of basic background and information materials. The IYC secretariat records developments at the national level in a so-called Country Directory which is also issued to national commissions for their information and guidance. Maintaining close relations with the national commissions and encouraging exchange of experience and information will be a principal focus of the IYC Secretariat in the months ahead.

64. Non-governmental organizations have a particularly important role to play in arousing support for IYC at grass root level. Developing and servicing contacts with non-governmental organizations has proved to be a challenging task because of the large number of organizations and the wide scope of interests in children they represent. It was inevitable that during these preparatory months many of the enquiries and discussions from national NGOs were directed to the IYC secretariat offices in New York and Geneva since national commissions were still in the process of formation.

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Public information

65. The emphasis of the IYC information services has been on working as much as possible through others: the United Nations system, the NGOs, the national IYC commissions and the media in general. It seeks primarily to promote, coordinate and support national action to focus attention on the problems of children and stimulate public participation in efforts to solve them. To this end, it is working closely with other members of the United Nations system in the production and distribution of basic information and "core material" - communications tools which can be adapted and used by national commissions, NGOs, the media and other re-disseminators in order to reach a wide range of target audiences.

66. On the regional and international levels, it is sponsoring or supporting a number of "special events" with a view to enhancing the visibility of IYC and generating further national action.

67. In addition, it functions as a clearing house, and a forum for the exchange of information on projects, materials, activities and ideas, originating both within and outside the United Nations family, on IYC-related themes.

68. The momentum is building up even in countries where there is yet no national commission, and requests are received daily for IYC sponsorship, financial or 'moral', of films, books, photo albums, reportage missions, records, exhibits or similar projects. In certain carefully selected cases, in which wide distribution of the finished product is guaranteed, for example, by a major television network, seed money or other forms of material support can be provided such as for the use of available documentary material, recording facilities, certain services, or "good offices" to establish contact with prominent resource persons such as statesmen, writers, artists or social scientists. In other cases, consultative and supervisory services have been requested, and provided. Sponsors of other projects request only a "seal of approval" indicating that they further the goals of IYC, since it is felt that this would enhance their acceptability.

69. Basic information material produced by 1 March 1978 included the following:

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(a) a basic leaflet outlining the background and objectives of the Year and giving the text of the General Assembly resolution. This has been produced by the IYC secretariat in English, French, Spanish and German; Arabic, Swahili and Thai versions have been produced locally. Other language versions are under consideration;

(b) the selection of an official IYC emblem from 170 designs submitted by artists from all parts of the world and guidelines for its use;

(c) a monthly newsletter, the IYC Report, with a circulation of 70,000 in four languages: English, French, Spanish and German. A Turkish version is produced locally. Other language versions are being planned;

(d) a one-page flyer, for general distribution, with an initial run of 200,000 in English. Arabic, French, German and Spanish versions are in production;

(e) the first two sixty-second TV spots in a series to be contributed by internationally famous personalities, urging support for IYC;

(f) a regular feature in Playback, a bulletin of the United Nations system on audio-visual matters, listing projects planned with IYC in mind.

70. Other information tools presently in the pipeline include:

(a) a travelling photo exhibit;

(b) a special supplement of the publication "Development Forum";

(c) a press kit;

(d) a catalogue of films and film strips of organizations in the United Nations system already available on IYC-related themes;

(e) a series of radio features in several languages;

(f) a 8-poster display set, for schools and NGOs;

(g) several short films, on, by, or for children, in various languages;

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(h) a bulletin designed to provide national commissions with ideas and guidance for information programmes.

71. These and other projects are being undertaken by the IYC information services, working closely with the UNICEF information division, the United Nations Department of Public Information, and the information services of the other organizations in the United Nations system.

72. A joint IYC information working party has been set up under the auspices of the Joint United Nations Information Committee (JUNIC). At the three sessions already held, organisations described activities being undertaken or planned in support of IYC, exchanged information on materials available for use by national commissions, and examined proposals for joint action, designating one or more lead agency to co-ordinate each project once it was approved. An example of this approach is the decision to sponsor a film by the United Nation system on the theme of the child, with the World Bank and the United Nations as lead agencies.

73. An important element in such inter-agency cooperation is the assistance of UNICEF field offices, whose support is essential at the regional and country level. The junior professional officers recently attached to UNICEF field offices (see para. 25) will be a major link with national commissions, and the United Nations is also mobilising its Information Centres, now numbering 52, in support of IYC.

74. Also contributing to the production, adaptation and distribution of material are the development information services of the principal donor countries, regional media associations such as the Press Foundation of Asia, ALACODE (Latin American Association of Development Journalists) and the Arab Journalists' Association, and the regional broadcasting associations.

75. Cutting across national boundaries are a number of ventures organised as a contribution to IYC, many in response to initiatives from the IYC Secretariat, others originating from international NGOs. The following are just a few examples:

(a) contests are being organised by the regional broadcasting and television associations;

(b) The Milan International Fair is sponsoring a festival and competition, starting in April 1978, of films for or about children;

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(c) A world-wide photo competition, followed by a series of travelling exhibitions, on the theme of the Child in Tomorrow's World, will be organised as a contribution to IYC by the International Federation of Photographic Art;

(d) The International Children's Book Fair in Bologna and the International Book Fair at Frankfurt are planning special observances for IYC, including special exhibitions and catalogues, as well as meetings between publishers from developed and developing countries;

(e) Numerous publications, such as those of the International Junior Chamber of Commerce and Soroptomists will devote special issues to the IYC theme.

Technical activities

76. As was expected the IYC Secretariat both in New York and Geneva has received a large and varied number of technical suggestions, inquiries and questions from many quarters: Governments, non-governmental organizations, universities and other institutions and individuals. Some of these simply inform the IYC offices of activities planned (a meeting, a workshop, a study), others seek financial support, endorsement, approval of co-operation in a particular endeavour. Yet others feel they need a discussion partner. These matters have to be studied and weighed and a proper response given to them. This work has been heavy because there are as yet comparatively few other organized bodies such as national commissions or NGO working groups to filter them through.

77. The picture that has emerged so far reflects a preponderance of activities reported from countries in Europe and North America. Approximately 200 different organizations are involved in planning these activities. While they are primarily NGOs, there is a small percentage of governmental organizations (national, international, as well as organizations in the United Nations system).

78. The following is a tabulation of the major interests of 176 international NGOs and other organizations expecting to participate in the IYC:

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- (a) Health 36 organizations
(primary health care, nutrition,
public health services, training
health personnel, mental health,
health education)
- (b) Special needs 29 organizations
(blind, deaf, leprosy, handicapped)
- (c) Education 26 organizations
(early childhood, basic development,
special teachers)
- (d) Services for children 24 organizations
(adoption, child care, child
caring institutions, special
services, shelter, day care,
gifted children)
- (e) Arts/mass media 21 organizations
(information, literature, painting,
poetry, books, periodicals, reading
development, festivals)
- (f) children's rights/legislation 19 organizations
(advocacy, juvenile justice)
- (g) Protection of the child 11 organizations
(abuse, delinquency, drugs, violence
abandoned, battered, neglected, child
labour)
- (h) Family 10 organizations
(parents' education, home economics,
family role and influence, parenting)
- (i) Recreation 7 organizations
(play facilities, the place of play
and toys in child development,
general recreational facilities)

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(j) Migrants/refugees 2 organizations

(k) Environment 2 organizations

79. The main thrust of interest to date centers on the following broad areas of concern: children's rights; early childhood education; health (including mental health, immunization and nutrition); child care services, and preventive services for children; handicapped children and children with special needs; recreation, environment, arts and the media.

80. In addition there is also interest in celebratory activities (festivals, competitions, events oriented towards the arts) which call for the active participation of children and so bring in a joyous element in the observance of IYC.

81. An important function of the IYC secretariat is to obtain as comprehensive a picture as possible of what activities are planned in order to make this information available to others.

82. In order to fulfill this function the IYC secretariat is maintaining a register of activities, in which each planned activity is entered on a separate loose sheet. These are reproduced and distributed, with a cumulative index, to national commissions, organizations in the United Nations system and international NGOs. This service will, it is hoped, help promote co-operative action and an exchange of information and ideas, and also provide a means for identifying areas being neglected and justifying attention by competent organizations.

83. The secretariat is planning to compile and distribute papers on specific themes that respond to areas of demonstrated major concern. Examples are handicapped children, pre-school education, the teen-age mother and children of migrants and refugees. These papers might, in certain instances, be monographs or articles written by experts in the field.

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84. Many varied 'ideas', or suggestions for possible projects and activities come to the secretariat. They vary from an 'idea' to create a fund for children from contributions by Governments equivalent to the cost of one day's expenditure for armaments, to an 'idea' to declare the first day of Spring as Children's Poetry Day. These are collected, in a systematic and uniform way in a compendium of ideas and communicated, when relevant and applicable, to interested parties.

85. In the Secretary-General's report to the Economic and Social Council in June 1976 (E/5844), it was proposed that a document be produced containing "extracts relevant to children from (existing) plans of action (of organisations in the United Nations system) in order to produce a reference paper for the International Year of the Child". Letters have gone out to organizations in the United Nations system requesting information that could be included in such a document. The IYC secretariat is now in the process of seeking a consultant or participating agency that might be able to assist in the completion of this document in time for the International Year of the Child.

Budget and financing

86. Last year the Board approved budget proposals in the amount of \$758,000 for the period 1 July - 31 December 1977 and of \$1,989,000 for the period 1 January 1978 - 31 December 1978 (E/ICEF/AB/L.179). It was possible to effect savings of \$228,000 or 30 per cent in 1977. As reported in greater detail in the IYC budget document to be considered at the present Board session (E/ICEF/AB/L.191) over half of this figure represents savings in staff costs arising from delayed recruitment of staff against the approved manning table.

87. As far as 1978 is concerned, the Executive Director regrets that he has not been able to reduce the estimates. In fact, the revised estimate for 1978 is \$2,028,000 as compared to the approved figure of \$1,989,000, or \$39,000 (2 per cent) higher. There have been no offers from Governments of suitable staff for secondment against the manning table. And while the IYC secretariat has received much appreciated assistance from the United Nations Office of Public Information and UNFPA by way of a loan of two officers, only one of these can be offset against the manning table and that officer is on temporary loan.

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88. The Executive Director wishes to point out that estimates for providing IYC secretariat services have hitherto been based largely on conjecture. With the Secretariat established and the work started, now is the first time that estimates can be provided based on actual expenditure. The Executive Director now recommends a budget of \$2.35 million for 1979 and of \$271,700 for the period 1 January 1980 - 30 June 1980. This would bring the total cost of the IYC Secretariat for the three year period mid 1977 to mid 1980 to \$5.187 million.

89. The increase of approximately \$1 million over the Secretary General's estimate (in E/5844) is not due to an increase in the manning table posts - limited though the original estimate was. It is due largely to the cost of the staff due to inflation, to a more realistic estimate of the cost of supporting services and to increasing the budget for the provision of information services and materials from \$700,000 to \$1,000,000.

90. In the light of the financial support from Governments so far, and in view also of the unmistakable interest IYC has aroused in practically all countries, the Executive Director has every hope that these additional funds will be forthcoming by way of voluntary contributions from Governments.

91. As of mid March 1978, 22 Governments had contributed or pledged a total of \$2.7 million (annex II). Taking into account a number of prospects and informal promises of support the Executive Director is optimistic on the attainment of the original target. He finds particular encouragement in the fact that an increasing number of smaller, developing countries are joining the list of contributors. These demonstrations of support are indicative of the great interest with which IYC is being received by many countries and of the widespread confidence in its success.

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Annex I

Countries that have established National Commissions for IYC
(as of 12 April 1978)

Africa

Botswana
Congo
Egypt
Ethiopia
Liberia
Madagascar
Malawi
Somalia
Sudan
Uganda
United Republic of Tanzania

Americas

Barbados
Brazil
Canada
Chile
Mexico
Trinidad & Tobago

Asia

Afghanistan
Bahrain
Indonesia
Iran
Iraq
Israel
Jordan
Kuwait
Oman
Philippines
Sri Lanka
Syrian Arab Republic
Thailand
Yemen Arab Republic
Yemen, People's Dem. Rep. of

Europe

Cyprus
Denmark
Finland
France
German Dem. Rep.
Germany, Fed. Rep. of
Greece
Hungary
Malta
Monaco
Norway
Portugal
Spain
Sweden
Turkey

Oceania

Australia
New Zealand
Samoa

Total = 50

Annex II

Contributions to IYC operational costs
 (as of 12 April 1978)

<u>Country</u>	<u>Year(s) pledged</u>	<u>Amount pledged (in US dollars)</u>
Austria	1978-1979	40,300
Belgium	1978	50,000
Bulgaria	1978	15,400
Canada		95,200
Finland	1978-1979	29,600
Germany, Federal Republic of	1978-1979	243,900
Ghana		10,000
India	1978-1979	109,000
Iran		200,000
Japan	1978	200,000
Jordan		3,200
Kuwait	1978	20,000
Maldives	1978	1,000
Mauritania	1977-1978	5,000
Mexico	1978	20,000
Netherlands	1979	500,000
New Zealand	1978	14,500
Norway	1978-1979	500,000
Philippines		100,000
Switzerland	1978	50,000
United Kingdom		290,700*
United States	1977	<u>250,000</u>
Total		2,748,300

The following statements were also made by delegates at the 1977 UNICEF Pledging Conference (see document A/CONF.86/SR.1):

- Australia: "... was considering the possibility of an additional contribution to the International Year of the Child together with some contribution to the administrative expenses of the Year."
- Italy: "...was also considering a special contribution for the International Year of the child."
- Saudi Arabia: "...would contribute towards the administrative costs of the International Year of the Child and would inform the secretariat of the exact amount of that contribution in due course."
- Yugoslavia: "...contribution to the International Year of the Child would be announced later in connexion with the establishment in Yugoslavia of a national body for the Year."

*Subject to parliamentary approval.

(15*) STRIPE COLOUR: White - Blue - Grey - Yellow - Green - Brown - Pink - Red

Date 6 Dec. /78 (2)

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E/ICRP/L. 1373 - L. 1375



1373 (B-4): INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD

ENGLISH

1374 (D-8); 1375 (D-10)

UNICEF

"NR"

Apr. - May 1978

"NR"

33p. + 1b.

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B (12)

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D-1	D-2	D-3	D-4	D-5	D-6	D-7	D-8	D-9	D-10	D-11	D-12
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34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45
F-1	F-2	F-3	F-4	F-5	F-6	F-7	F-8	F-9	F-10	F-11	F-12
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